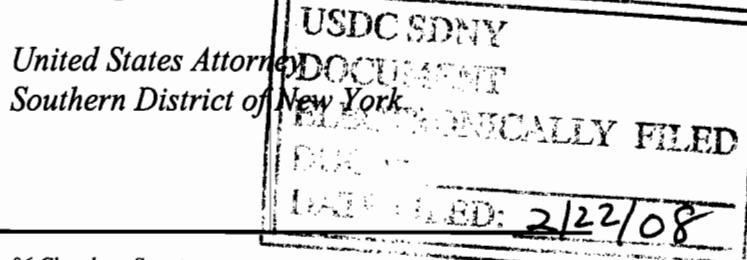
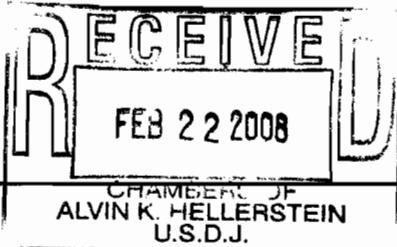


U.S. Department of Justice

CHAMBER OF  
ALVIN K. HELLERSTEIN  
U.S.D.J.86 Chambers Street  
New York, New York 10007

February 21, 2008

By Hand

Honorable Alvin K. Hellerstein  
 United States District Judge  
 United States Courthouse  
 500 Pearl Street, Room 1050  
 New York, New York 10007

Re: Garney Crews v. Astrue  
 07 Civ. 6374 (AKH)

Dear Judge Hellerstein:

This Office represents the Commissioner of Social Security, defendant in the above-referenced action. The parties are exploring settlement of plaintiff's petition for attorney's fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act ("EAJA") that was filed on February 6, 2008. Therefore, with consent of plaintiff, I respectfully request an extension of two weeks from today, until March 6, 2008, to respond to the EAJA petition.

This is defendant's first request for an extension on the EAJA petition.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

MICHAEL J. GARCIA  
 United States Attorney

By:

Leslie A. Ramirez Fisher  
 LESLIE A. RAMIREZ-FISHER  
 Assistant U.S. Attorney  
 Telephone: (212) 637-0378  
 Fax: (212) 637-2750

cc: Carol Goldstein, Esq. (by fax)